

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 AID-20 L-03 AGR-20 IGA-02

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJECT: INTERIM REPORT - POPPY REDUCTION DISCUSSIONS

REF: STATE 227866

SUMMARY: GOP APPARENTLY HAS DECIDED TO ANNOUNCE
TIMETABLE FOR PHASE I(A) AND I(B) (SETTLED AREAS) PRODUCTION
REDUCTION. EXTENSION OF NARCOTICS LAWS AND SIMULTANEOUS
LICENSING OF PRODUCTION IN MERGED AREAS, TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF
OVERALL PLAN OF PHASED REDUCTION, SEEN BY MISSION AS REASON-
ABLE APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP IN-HOUSE MEETING OF SECRETARY GENERAL KAZI,
SECRETARY PLANNING JAFAREY, AND PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL
BOARD CHAIRMAN ORAKZAI TOOK PLACE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26.
ORAKZAI HAS TOLD US THAT DECISION WAS REACHED TO MAKE COMMIT-
MENT ON PHASE-OUT OF POPPY CULTIVATION IN SETTLED AREAS
ACCORDING TO FIXED SCHEDULE. IN VIEW OF DECISION AT THIS LEVEL,
SECRETARY JAFAREY REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING
WITH WHEELER, PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 27, IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME TO CLEAR A GOP POSITION
AT POLITICAL LEVEL.

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2. RE PARA 3 REFTTEL ON EXTENSION OF LICENSING INTO MERGED

AREAS, ORAKZAI HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING GOP RATIONALE FOR THIS ACTION IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL STRATEGY OF A PHASED REDUCTION: GOP PLANS TO REDUCE PRODUCTION IN MERGED AREAS OVER AT LEAST TWO YEARS, WITH NUMBER OF YEARS DEPENDENT UPON RATE OF PROGRESS POSSIBLE IN PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME THROUGH PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE AFFECTED AREAS. ONCE GOVERNMENT DECIDED IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN ONE YEAR TO ELIMINATE PRODUCTION IN MERGED AREAS, AS IS CASE IN SETTLED AREAS, LICENSING BECAME BEST METHOD FOR GETTING ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF PRODUCTION.

3. WE ASSUME WASHINGTON'S NEGATIVE REACTION TO LICENSING IN MERGED AREAS IS BASED ON FACT THAT U.S. TEAM RECOMMENDED A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THESE AREAS WHICH AVOIDED THE NEED FOR LICENSING. HOWEVER, GOP FEELS LICENSING IS AN APPROPRIATE STEP IN A PHASED REDUCTION IN MERGED AREAS OVER AT LEAST TWO YEARS. ONCE WE ACCEPT (ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY) THAT ELIMINATION OF PRODUCTION IN MERGED AREAS WILL TAKE MORE THAN ONE YEAR, THEIR DECISION BECOMES MORE EASILY UNDERSTOOD. ORAKZAI STATES THAT GOP PLANS ARE TO GAZETTE THE LAW ANNOUNCING LICENSING OF POPPIES IN THE MERGED AREAS THIS YEAR (1973-74) MAKING CLEAR THAT FARMERS WHO GROW POPPIES WITHOUT LICENSES WILL BE SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT UNDER NARCOTICS LAWS. THE GOVERNMENT THEN PLANS TO PURCHASE ALL LICENSED PRODUCTION AT THE SAME RATE AS WILL BE PAID IN THE SETTLED AREAS, E.E., RS. 200 PER SEER. THROUGH THIS METHOD THE ACREAGE CAN BE DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED. A 50 PERCENT CUTBACK IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR FY 1974-75, WITH A COMPLETE BAN THE FOLLOWING YEAR IF ALL GOES WELL. ON QUESTION OF VESTED INTERESTS, ORAKZAI FEELS LICENSING NEED NOT INCREASE ALREADY EXISTING INTERESTS SINCE THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CURRENTLY PLAN TO PAY ANYONE FOR NOT PRODUCING, CONTRARY TO APPROACH USED IN TURKEY AND TO SUGGESTIONS IN U.S. REPORT.

4. WE BELIEVE GOP APPROACH ON THIS ISSUE IS UNDERSTANDABLE. WHILE WE MIGHT GO ABOUT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM IN A DIFFERENT WAY, WE BELIEVE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH NOT UNREASONABLE AND SUGGEST WE NOT CONTINUE TO PURSUE A NEGOTIATION GOAL OF AVOIDING LICENSING IN MERGED AREAS; INSTEAD CONCENTRATING OUR ATTENTION ON PRINCIPAL GOAL OF ACHIEVING EARLIEST START ON

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PRODUCTION REDUCTION WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF AS DEFINITE AN UNDERTAKING ON OVERALL REDUCTION ON OVERALL REDUCTION SCHEDULE AS WE CAN OBTAIN. HAVING SAID THIS, WE CONTINUE TO FIND ORAKZAI VAGUE ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS FOR THIS PLANTING SEASON, A VAGUENESS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND IN VIEW OF FACT THAT PLANTING SEASON WELL UNDERWAY. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO STRESS NEED FOR PROGRAM OF ACTIONS WHICH ARE SPECIFIC AND

BELIEVABLE.

5. WE WILL REPORT AGAIN AS SOON AS JAFAREY CLEARS A POSITION
AT POLITICAL LEVEL.
BYROADE

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